ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government Policy does not permit import of consumer and luxury electronic items as per the General Import Trade Control Policy.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI Sir, may I know from the hon. Minister what general policy he is talking about in terms of what is contained in the Red Book. The thrust of the Press report was that the imports are on Government account, on behalf of the Department of Electronics. Is it a fact? If so, how are you going to protect the indigenous industry?

SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN: It is not a fact. ET & T has not placed any order for VCRs so far, nor has the Department of Electronics given any permission for importing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over. Papers to be laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Defalcation of lakhs of dollars by the employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore

*227. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some employees of the Indian High Commission in Singapore had defalcated several lakhs of dollars;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Defalcation of Government funds amounting to Singapore Dollars 1,42,231.91 (equivalent to Rs. 6,05,390.55) had taken place in the High Commission of India, Singapore, upto May, 1985, when a locally recruited employee of Singhpore nationality, Smt. P. Kannan, was working as Cashier in the Mission.

(c) The services of Smt. Kannan were terminated on 29-5-85. She has been absconding since that time. Steps to trace her were made by the authorities concerned both in Singapore and in India, but these were not successful. The investigating authorities have since advised that it is not possible to pursue the case in the absenence of the main accused. Consequently, it has not been possible to initiate steps to recover the defalcated amount.

Review of Anti-Poverty programmes

*231. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the anti-poverty programmes under implementation have been reviewed recently and whether their impact on the economically weaker sections has been studied;

(b) if so, what are the results thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to remove the drawbacks in the implementation of the anti-poverty programmes?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The three major anti-poverty programmes under implementation are : Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme (RLEGP). No All-India studies on RLEGP have been completed as yet. A number of evaluation studies have been, however, completed in respect of IRDP and NREP during the last 3-4 years. In the case of IRDP, concurrent evaluation

had also been started from October, 1985. Main findings with regard to the impact of IRDP and NREP on the beneficiaries are as follows:

IRDP

(i) Over 50 per cent of the beneficiaries assisted have crossed the old poverty line of Rs. 3500, but only 12 per cent have crossed the raised poverty line of Rs. 6400.

(ii) A very substantial number of beneficiaries have reported increase in their income on account of assistance received under the programmes.

(iii) Majority of beneficiaries feel that family employment as well as consumption level had increased after being provided IRDP benefits.

NREP

(i) The socio-economic status of the beneficiaries indicates that benefits of the programmes were, by and large, going to the categories for whom the programmes is intended.

(ii) The predominant sources of empoyment for the beneficiaries were the non-NREP works and thus the programme had provided in general, some supplementary and additional employment opportunities.

(iii) Considering the focus of NREP being on providing additional employment in rural areas mainly during the lean months of the year, it could reasonably, be concluded that the works under the programme by and large, were meeting the objectives.

(iv) About 80 per cent of the total employment under NREP during 1982-83 was shared by SC/ST and Backward Classes which accounted for 70 per cent of the sample size.

(c) Steps, like : isuse of specific instructions to State Government etc. and amendment of guidelines, if necessary are taken to remove the drawbacks in the implementation of the three programmes which come to light from time to time.

Reduction in the States' Annual Plan outlays

*232. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMAY: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whther it is a fact that the States' Annual Plan Outlays were reduced to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crores because of the resource crunch in the previous year; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken for the mobilisation of resources without hitting the State Plans?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER): (a) As compared to 1987-88, there was a step up of 7.6 per cent in the overall size of Annual Plans of all States (excluding Punjab) for the year 1988-89. While the Annual Plans for all States (excluding Punjab) for the year 1987-88 aggregated to Rs. 17591 crores, the corresponding figure for 1988-89 works out to Rs. 18943 crores.

(b) Does not arise.

Indigenously developed Telecommunication Technology

*233. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRI SHEO KUMAR MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether CIT-Alcatel, the transnational telecommunication giant has approached India to buy its indigenously developed telecommunication technology of the public sector Centre for Development of Telematics;